

Page One (4 panels)

Panel 1. Queens, New York. Night. A down-angle establishing shot of Mary Jane's house, a narrow two-story wedged between two *other* two-stories. Central to our est. shot is a second-story window with the lights on within. This is MJ's room.

(Takeshi, these first couple pages are going to be somewhat dialogue-laden. Several balloons with a sentence or so of text. But many of these balloons are little ellipses, so it's not as bad as it looks. I think.)

MJ (within): So tell me: do I even **want** to go to the Homecoming dance?

Panel 2. Now we're inside the bedroom. Not much of an establishing shot here. We're looking at the covers of a teen magazine--we'll call it *TEEN-TASTIC*. There's a made-up young male heartthrob on the front cover, and an ad for a made-up boy band disc on the back cover. Behind the mag, holding the covers open, is MARY JANE. We see her red hair over the top of the mag, but we don't catch her face yet. Both her hands are occupied, so she should have her phone (corded or cordless is up to you, but remember the Watsons don't have much money) tucked between her ear and her shoulder. What she's doing now--for your information, but the readers don't need to realize this yet--is cutting a picture out of the mag.

MJ: I mean, I **realize** you and Flash are probably gonna be king and queen, but--

MJ: ...

MJ: No...no, I haven't been asked to go yet, but I don't--

MJ: You know...who would I even **go** with? Sometimes I think there's absolutely no one **out** there for--

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Page One (cont'd.)

Panel 3. With the magazine in one hand, a pair of scissors in the other and the phone still tucked, MJ freaks. Not angry, just kind of shocked and a little grossed out. An outrageous suggestion from her pal, Liz.

MJ: **Harry Osborn?**

MJ: Liz! He's been my friend--**our** friend--since, like, **forever!** Wouldn't that be like dating my own **brother?**

MJ: ...

MJ: Liz, I know. I **know** I don't have a brother, but that's not the--

Panel 4. MJ lies back on the bed, holding the folded-over mag over her. We can tell she's looking at a picture of some dreamy guy.

MJ: Uh-huh. Well, yeah, Harry's funny and...y'know, cute--

MJ: ...

MJ: --yes, **and** well off, but...I don't know...

MJ: ...he's just not what I'm **looking** for. I need someone more...I dunno, **exciting**.

MJ: Like a rock star. Kinda.

Page Two (7 panels)

Panel 1. A small panel. MJ pulls some masking tape off of a roll.

MJ (off): I am **not** being unrealistic! You always **say** that about me, Liz, like you're the **expert** on--

Panel 2. Another smallish panel. MJ loops the tape, placing it on back of the piece she clipped from the mag. The other three requisite pieces of looped tape are already on the clipping, which she lies on the cluttered dresser. The back of the clipping is some article about the guy on the cover, with a photo of him cropped off on one corner of it, indicating maybe he's not the target of her affections.

MJ: What? No!

MJ: Of course not. I'm fine. Everything's fine.

MJ: ...

MJ: Yeah, whatever.

Panel 3. We stand behind MJ as she looks in the mirror at herself. She gives herself a serious stare that belies her words. Not cynicism, but a sort of sincerely disheartened look.

MJ: I mean, seriously--when have you ever known me to be anything **but** happy?

Panel 4. We're on the wall next to the spot where MJ places the clipping with a content smile.

MJ: Look, I'll **think** about it, okay? I'll think about going. But Harry? That's just--

MJ: ...

MJ: Flash **said** that? What'd you say back?

MJ: ...

MJ: Really? Tch. What a big **goober**. You--

CONTINUED...

Page Two (cont'd.)

Panel 5. We stand behind MJ so that her head blocks the clipping. She turns sharply upon hearing her mother's commanding, shrill voice.

MOM (off): **MARY JANE WATSON!!**

MOM (off): **GET DOWN HERE FOR DINNER!**

Panel 6. The same or similar angle. MJ grimaces. She starts to move so that we see a little of the clipping.

MJ: You heard **that**. Mother has spoken. Gotta go, 'kay?

MJ: See you tomorrow.

Panel 7. Same shot or similar. MJ is either almost out of the frame or completely out, revealing the clipping. It's a photo taken from inside a skyscraper of SPIDER-MAN swinging by. The small headline below it reads: SPIDER-MAN: HERO OR HEARTTHROB?

NO COPY

Page Three (7 panels)

Panel 1. Day. An establishing shot of a public school in Queens.

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Panel 2. I picture these next 4 panels as a page-wide shot of a hallway in the school broken into four equal-size panels. The idea here is that MJ, a book and notebook in hand, is walking through the hall, showing up in each panel, but she's the only repeated element. What I want to accomplish is to show that MJ is an exuberant girl and that she's very likable. Different people from different cultures are cool with her, and she's perfectly cool right back. Maybe even a bit of a flirt with the boys.

GUY: Heya, MJ!

MJ: Hey yourself, Randal.

Panel 3. See above.

GUY ON LEFT: --wish **my** girl could be as laid back as you, Mary Jane.

MJ: What can I say? I'm like **Teflon** for worries.

Panel 4. See above.

GIRL: --told him Nine Inch Nails is for **geriatrics**.

MJ: Haha! That is **too perfect**.

Panel 5. See above.

GUY: See ya in geometry, MJ?

MJ: Sure, Tiger. Wouldn't miss it for the--

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Page Three (cont'd.)

Panel 6. LIZ ALLEN grabs MJ by the arms, almost knocking the books out from MJ's grasp. Liz is a bit prone to overreaction, and she's also very straightforward. Liz leans forward, her eyes big with disbelief. MJ is startled.

LIZ: I don't **believe** him!

Panel 7. MJ winces some, anticipating the answer. Liz turns, rolling her eyes. Drama queen.

MJ: Morning to you too, Liz. I take it this is about **Flash**...?

LIZ: You mean **Flash Thompson**, the biggest dope of a boyfriend in the **history** of the world?

LIZ: Guhh...It's **always** about Flash.

Page Four (6 panels)

Panel 1. Focus on Liz, who tenses up, making her hands into furious claws of frustration.

LIZ: Do you know he **forgot** to register for Homecoming king? **Forgot**, MJ!

LIZ: The **deadline** was **yesterday**!

LIZ: He **knows** what a big deal this is!

Panel 2. The two walk along, MJ smiling, mildly amused by Liz's nerve. Liz folds her arms, kind of steamed, but calming down.

MJ: Yeah...you told me this **last night**, remember? You were going to go to the principal and--

LIZ: No, **this** time I had to call the **school superintendent**. He **said** he'd make an **exception**.

LIZ: **Luckily**.

LIZ: Gnehh! I am so **upset** with him.

Panel 3. MJ looks contemplative.

MJ: You know...when I'm really upset, or depressed, I just like to ride the trains by myself. Like, for hours.

MJ: Gives me **space**, you know? Room to think.

Panel 4. Liz stops, looking at MJ seriously. She's never seen this side of her before. MJ looks at Liz with mild surprise.

LIZ: Really?

Panel 5. MJ smiles lightly.

NO COPY

Panel 6. The two giggle uncontrollably.

LIZ: Hee! You almost **had** me, there!

MJ: I did, didn't I?

LIZ: "Really upset"...pfft...

Page Five (7 panels)

Panel 1. Liz acts coy, leaning against a locker as MJ works her locker combo next to her. Liz should be on the side where the hinges to the door are, so MJ's door will be between the two of them when she opens it.

LIZ: So, **anyway**...

LIZ: Given any thought to **Harry**?

MJ: Liz...

LIZ: MJ, it's **perfect**!

Panel 2. Liz daydreams against the locker.

LIZ: Just **think** about it--if you were dating Harry, the four of us would still hang out, but as a couple of **couples**!

LIZ: We could **double date**!

Panel 3. MJ has her locker open. She's behind it and pokes her head out at Liz, eyes big. Liz looks to MJ excitedly.

MJ: Whoa, whoa, whoa!

MJ: I thought this was just about Homecoming. Now I'm **dating** him?

LIZ: Come **on**, MJ...

Panel 4. Liz pleads pathetically. Either MJ just stands there, watching her friend plea in almost a detached manner, or she's busy with stuff in her locker. Your choice, Takeshi.

LIZ (off): ...just think about how **cool** it would be. You **need** a **guy** in your life. And, seriously, you and Harry were **made** for each other.

LIZ (off): **Pleeeeeeease.**

CONTINUED...

Page Four (cont'd.)

Panel 5. In the foreground, MJ chuckles as she faces the locker. Liz walks backwards down the hall in the background, calling to MJ.

LIZ: **Think** about it, okay??

MJ: **No.**

LIZ: Yes!

MJ: Go to **class**.

Panel 6. MJ prepares to close the locker door, thinking to herself somewhat bemusedly.

MJ (small): Hehh...me and Harry Osborn.

Panel 7. MJ turns to us as she pushes the locker door closed, wearing a cynical smirk. She doesn't realize that right behind her stands HARRY OSBORN. He leans sideways against the adjacent locker, arms folded, smiling. He didn't overhear her from last panel, but the look on his face might freak the reader into thinking he did.

MJ (small): Yeah, **right**...

Page Six (7 panels)

Panel 1. MJ jumps when Harry speaks, spinning around. The look on her face is priceless

HARRY: Hey, MJ.

MJ: **Harry!**

Panel 2. Harry smiles, but with a concerned brow. MJ smiles back, slightly nervous.

HARRY: You **okay** there? Sounded like you were talking to yourself...

MJ: Huh? No, I--

MJ: What? No. No, I'm fine. Fine.

HARRY: Glad to hear it...

Panel 3. Harry and MJ walk. MJ looks a little more toward us with a deer-in-headlights look. She's sure he's going to ask her out. And it looks like it, too, as Harry talks with his head down, trying to find the right words...

HARRY: So, hey--there's something I've been meaning to **ask** you for a couple weeks now.

MJ: Oh. Uh...yeah?

HARRY: Yeah, well...you're a pretty popular girl, and I know all the guys're **into** you, so I thought maybe, um...

Panel 4. Focus on Harry, who looks sympathetic, concerned.

HARRY: ...you're not going to run for Homecoming queen against Liz, are you?

HARRY: I just don't think it's **you**, y'know? I mean, for **Liz Allen**, super cheerleader, it's **perfect**, but you've gotta know you have so much **more**--

HARRY: I mean, you're--

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Page Five (cont'd.)

Panel 5. Harry is in mid-shrug when he's stopped short by MJ, who playfully backhands him in the arm.

HARRY: Besides, you know, I'd hate for the four of us to have a **wedge** driven--

MJ: Harry, you goober! **No**, I'm not running.

MJ: Even if I **wanted** to--which I **don't**--I think you have to actually be a football cheerleader.

Panel 6. Harry steps away, turning back with a discreet wave and a nice smile. MJ raises her hand partially for a half-hearted wave.

HARRY: Oh. Well, that's cool then.

HARRY: See you at the Bean?

MJ: Yeah. See ya.

Panel 7. Alone (but with students milling about), MJ lets out a relieved breath, her eyebrows raised.

MJ (small): Wow.

MJ (small): **Awkward.**

Page Seven (6 panels)

Panel 1. An establishing shot of the Coffee Bean. Maybe take a look at the old Amazing Spider-Man issues to get an idea of the exterior for an homage. Inside, though, I see more of a Starbucks-type atmosphere, but not as obnoxious as "Central Perk" from *Friends*. But inside doesn't matter now. This is just outside.

HARRY (within): Riddle me this: when am I **ever** going to use advanced algebra in real life?

Panel 2. Inside, we now have a shot of a table. Harry and MJ sit on one side (w/ MJ against the window) and Liz and FLASH sit on the other (w/ Flash against the window). Harry smiles while he complains, not particularly peeved--just making small talk. MJ smiles understandingly. MJ and Harry have lattes; Liz has an iced frappuccino with whipped cream on top; and Flash would have just a regular old coffee in a regular old coffee mug.

HARRY: I mean, polynomials, domains...I **tried** to get Mr. Layters to **explain** it to me, but...

HARRY: I wish I could just **skip** that class altogether.

FLASH: I hear **that**! Heck, I say we skip 'em **all**!

Panel 3. Flash laughs, leaning back with his hands laced at the back of his neck, while Liz looks at him with pursed lips and laser-beam eyes.

FLASH: What I **really** wish I could ditch, though, is this whole Homecoming king garbage.

LIZ: **Flash Thompson.**

Panel 4. As Harry and MJ watch their friends, both reach for the sugar packets, their hands almost touching.

FLASH (off): What'd I say?

LIZ (off): You forgot to sign up **on purpose**, didn't you?

FLASH (off): Aah, you don't know what'cher talkin' about...

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Page Seven (cont'd.)

Panel 5. The two withdraw their hands quickly, nervously. They look at one another uncomfortably, kind of embarrassed.

LIZ (off): I don't know what **I'm** talking about? **You're** the big **lunkhead** who doesn't understand any words with more than two syllables!

FLASH (off): Whatever.

LIZ (off): Yeah, whatev--

Panel 6. They all look at their visitor, who we only see from the back, but they know it's Harry's dweebish friend, PETER PARKER.

PETER: Hey, Harry.

Page Eight (7 panels)

Panel 1. Pete stands at the end of the table, speaking uncomfortably. Very self-conscious. Harry's totally normal with him.

HARRY: 'Sup, Pete?

PETER: Not much...

PETER: So, um...are we still on tonight? The...the science project? We were going to--

Panel 2. Flash gives off-panel Peter his "sinister" face.

FLASH: Hey, Parker. I got a project for ya:

FLASH: **Get a life.**

Panel 3. Peter just sort of looks at Flash like "huh?" but not really asserting himself. It's a subtle wince. Harry closes his eyes, sighing.

NO COPY

Panel 4. Pete turns back to Harry, being very plain and understated, hands in his pockets. Harry pats Peter on the shoulder in a friendly, non-condescending manner.

PETER: So...tonight, then?

HARRY: Sure. You bet.

PETER: Okay, then. I'll see you.

CONTINUED...

Page Eight (cont'd.)

Panel 5. Flash grimaces with amusement. A “whatever” look. Liz smacks Flash in the chest with her forearm.

LIZ: **Geez**, Flash...

FLASH: What? Kid’s a **dweeb**...

LIZ: You know, one of these days, he’s gonna start **working out** and you’ll be in **big trouble**, mister.

FLASH: **Puny Peter Parker**? Uh-huh. **That’ll** be the day...

Panel 6. Focus on Flash, who looks across to off-panel MJ with a sly grin.

FLASH: Heh...! You know what I **thought** he was comin’ over here for...

FLASH: I thought **for sure** he was gonna ask MJ out to Homecoming. Hey...

Panel 7. MJ gets that deer in headlights look again as she takes a sip of her latte. Maybe we see Harry look at MJ with interest in her answer.

FLASH (off): ...who you **goin’** with, anyway?

Page Nine (6 panels)

Panel 1. Liz urgently pulls a clueless Flash from the table. She smiles slightly nervously.

LIZ: Oh, hey! I just **remembered**, Flash and I have something **really important** to take care of.

FLASH: Uh...we do?

LIZ (small): Yes. Now shut up and come with me.

Panel 2. Harry gets up from his seat. MJ nods, playing it cool.

LIZ: **Bye**, you two! Feel free to stay and chat!

HARRY: Man, those two are **strange**...

HARRY: Would you excuse me a sec, MJ?

Panel 3. Harry walks to Pete's table, where he's reading a book. If we can see it well enough to read the cover or spine, it's something by Stephen Hawking, like *A Brief History of Time*. Pete looks up from his reading. Harry smiles kindly.

HARRY: Hey.

Panel 4. With a curious look on her face, MJ starts to turn around to see what off-panel Harry's up to.

NO COPY

Panel 5. We watch with MJ from behind her shoulder as Harry kneels a bit next to Peter, a hand on his back, caring and kind. Harry's pep talk warms Peter's heart.

HARRY (small): --worry about Flash, Pete. He doesn't mean what he says.

HARRY (small): You know, guys like him just don't understand what a smart guy you are...

Panel 6. A shot of MJ. She smiles. Something clicks, watching Harry in this moment, that makes her see him in a new light.

NO COPY

Page Ten (6 panels)

Panel 1. Harry comes to sit down. MJ rests her chin on her palm, smiling.

HARRY: Miss me?

MJ: Yeah. Welcome back.

Panel 2. Harry has sat next to MJ, even though Liz and Flash are now gone. He freezes up, feeling awkward, but MJ offers a dismissive wave.

HARRY: Oh. I guess since they're gone I can sit over **there** now, huh?

MJ: Ahh, don't worry about it.

MJ: Harry...

Panel 3. MJ narrows an eye, this sort of contemplative look on her. Harry doesn't see what she's getting at.

MJ: ...have you ever maybe thought about, like...us going out sometime? Like for dinner or something?

HARRY: What're you talking about, MJ? We did that just last weekend...

Panel 4. MJ smiles. A sort of "Tiger, you just hit the jackpot" moment.

MJ: No, I don't mean--

MJ: That was with Liz and Flash. I was thinking more just, you know...

MJ: **...us.**

CONTINUED...

Page Ten (cont'd.)

Panel 5. Harry is speechless, fumbling.

HARRY (off): I--

HARRY (off): Well...**yeah**, but I never thought you were--

HARRY (off): I mean, is that--

Panel 6. Harry is somewhat flummoxed. It hasn't really sunk in yet. MJ smiles contentedly.

HARRY: Is that something you wanted to **do**?

MJ: Okay.

HARRY: Um...is Friday--?

MJ: Okay.

Page Eleven (8 panels)

Panel 1. We go to the school gymnasium for a shot of girls' gym. Whee! The girls are playing badminton. Liz and MJ are nowhere to be seen in this establishing shot.

MJ: Ohmy**gosh**, Liz. **Harry** is the **perfect guy** for me!

Panel 2. MJ serves the shuttlecock, hitting it underhanded. She's pretty excited.

MJ: I mean, he's smart, he's funny, he's selfless, he's **totally** adorable--

MJ: --and he's **already** a close friend, so that part's in the bag!

MJ: It's like it all makes **sense** to me now!

Panel 3. Liz hits back, rolling her eyes.

LIZ: Um, **duh**!

LIZ: **Excuse me**, but you're talking like this info is somehow **new** to you!

Panel 4. MJ returns volley. She's still in a good mood.

MJ: Well, it **is** new to me!

MJ: I mean, I know you were trying to **tell** me, but it's like you were speaking in **tongues** or something.

Panel 5. Liz returns volley with a wicked smirk.

LIZ: Uh-huh. More like you were **daydreaming** about a certain someone in **red and blue tights**...

CONTINUED...

Page Eleven (cont'd.)

Panel 6. MJ points nastily with her racket, letting the shuttlecock fall. She's ticked, but not seriously. It's friendship ticked, defensiveness.

MJ: **Hey!**

MJ: Every girl has the right to **fantasize**.

LIZ (off): Hey, I know, but why can't you have a more **realistic** fantasy?

Panel 7. MJ and Liz meet at the net. MJ fumes, glaring at smugly smiling Liz as she hands over the shuttlecock.

LIZ: You know, like dating someone from a **boy band**?

LIZ: My point. I serve.

MJ: You are **evil**.

LIZ: Love you, too!

LIZ: So...

Panel 8. A page-wide strip, super extreme close-up, MJ's eyes wide open.

LIZ (off): ...what're you gonna wear for the big **date**?

Page Twelve (5 panels)

Panel 1. Evening. We're inside a fancy French restaurant. At the center of our shot are Mary Jane and Harry, who have a nice spot. MJ is dressed up some--no jeans--but "teens going out to dinner" dressed up. Not nearly as nice as the other patrons. MJ is very self-conscious. Harry's wearing a suit coat over a nice Izod-type shirt.

HARRY: MJ? Are you okay?

MJ (off): Well...

MJ (off): ...I'm kind of feeling **underdressed**.

Panel 2. Focus on Harry. He leans in, smiling. Charming.

HARRY: Well, hey, so am I, right?

HARRY: I mean, they **did** have to loan me this suit coat.

Panel 3. MJ looks at her menu. She looks very discouraged.

MJ: Harry, everything's in **French**.

MJ: I dunno. Maybe this wasn't--

Panel 4. MJ's POV. A WAITER arrives. Harry hands the menus to him. Both of them are looking at MJ. The waiter is startled by MJ's beauty. Harry's eyes sparkle, enjoying the moment.

WAITER: Ah! Misseur Harry! Always a **distinct** pleasure.

HARRY: Evening, Reginald.

WAITER: I see in place of your father you have this **radiant beauty**.

HARRY: Yes. Yes, I do.

Panel 5. Now back to MJ. She blushes, the fantasy-come-to-life of Harry being Prince Charming coming to the fore.

HARRY (off): And the radiant beauty will have the *Canard a l'Orange*.

WAITER (off): A **splendid** choice, Misseur Harry.

Page Thirteen (5 panels)

Panel 1. Night. We're out in one of New York's parks, watching an open carriage moving along with MJ and Harry inside.

MJ (from cart): Harry Osborn, I can hardly **believe** you.

Panel 2. MJ snuggles up against Harry. It's the dawning of a new chapter in their lives.

MJ: First the restaurant, then the gallery opening--

MJ: --and now a **carriage ride** through the park? It's almost more than a girl can handle.

HARRY: Well...I guess I just wanted this to be very special for you.

MJ: It is. It's **wonderful**. Like something out of a fairy t--

Panel 3. Harry gazes off thoughtfully to the distance. MJ looks to Harry curiously.

HARRY (off): We've been friends a long time, haven't we?

MJ (off): Hmm? Yeah, I guess...

HARRY (off): Do you remember that one time I stayed over at your place? What were we? Eleven?

MJ (off): Yeah.

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Page Thirteen (cont'd.)

Panel 4. Focus on Harry, who chuckles.

HARRY: We stayed up all night and told each other **everything**.
Remember that?

HARRY: Like, remember you had a crush on **Flash**?

HARRY: Haha! You were so **embarrassed** about it so you swore
me to secrecy.

Panel 5. MJ has sunk in her seat a little. She looks down, troubled. The fantasy is
being cracked apart by reality.

HARRY (off): And I told you all about those **private schools** I went
to, and about how I was starting to feel like an **alien**
and wanted to just hide from everyone and everything?

MJ: Uh-huh.

HARRY (off): Well, talking like that--that's what I hope you and I can
be like **now**.

MJ: Oh, yeah?

Page Fourteen (5 panels)

Panel 1. Harry looks to the distance, smiling.

HARRY (off): Yeah.

HARRY (off): I mean, I know it's kinda early in...you know, what we're doing?

HARRY (off): But I want you to know **everything** there is to know about me.

Panel 2. Now he turns to MJ with a tender smile.

HARRY: I don't want to be a mystery to you.

Panel 3. MJ looks kind of worried. She gazes numbly.

MJ: I should...be getting home.

Panel 4. Harry looks at MJ, concerned. She smiles reassuringly.

HARRY: Is something wrong?

MJ: 'Course not, silly. It's just late, you know...

Panel 5. Harry looks at her, trying not to beam too much. MJ turns away, and her smile fades.

HARRY: Yeah, you're probably right...

Panel 6. The carriage moves away from us.

NO COPY

Page Fifteen (5 panels)

Panel 1. Still night. We're in Queens, just across the river from Manhattan. We're watching a subway train chug along. For this sequence, Takeshi, which is 8 pages, I had a very difficult time finding decent reference for Queens and for the elevated trackline. I may kind of fudge things here, but we've got a bunch of New Yorkers watching over us so hopefully MacKenzie and Co. will be able to fill in the blanks for us. Also, if some of this won't work visually, feel free to get in touch with me and we can work it out, okay?

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Panel 2. We close in on the train. MJ stares despondently out a window in the back car. This shot should be far enough back that we realize it's the end car.

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Panel 3. Close in real tight so we can see her face better. Though we don't see it until next page, she's sitting backwards on her seat to look out the window, just so you know how she's situated. She's kind of looking back in the direction the car came from (Manhattan).

NO COPY

Panel 4. MJ's POV of Manhattan across the river.

NO COPY

Panel 5. Now MJ looks at her reflection in the window, not dissimilar from the look from scene 1.

MJ (small): What's wrong with you?

Page Sixteen (6 panels)

Panel 1. A shot from inside her car. She's the only one inside. (I realize this is less than likely but gimme a break, here.) Still seated backwards on her knees, she freezes as the car starts to shimmy. I would say to make these first three panels smaller to make room for the other two, more dynamic shots.

MJ: What's--

Panel 2. Now a hard, jarring motion that yanks her back off the seat toward the train floor.

MJ: **WHOA--!**

Panel 3. MJ is on her butt, recovering. She looks concerned and sore.

MJ: What the heck is--

Panel 4. A big panel. The front of her car explodes with electricity. The shockwave sends her flying back toward the end of the train.

NO COPY

Panel 5. Eyes closed tight, the remnants of the explosion in our foreground, MJ is slides back hard.

NO COPY

Panel 6. MJ slams into the back door of the train, opening it.

NO COPY

Page Seventeen (4 panels)

Panel 1. A worm's-eye shot from outside. The last car of the train has derailed. It hangs down off the elevated rail, and MJ holds onto the inside back wall for dear life. Now, in reality, I'm told these elevated trains are never much higher than 25 feet. Sure, that's nothing to sneeze at, but I say we play a little fast and loose with it to make the danger more intense.

MJ: **EEEEEE!!**

Panel 2. A bird's-eye shot. People gawk and watch as MJ hangs on. There is a lane of traffic running along each side of the track, and two lanes running below it, like in *The French Connection*.

MJ: **HELP MEEE!!**

Panel 3. Now a shot from in the car, looking down at MJ. She looks up in our direction, shocked and amazed by what she sees as she holds on for her life.

MJ: **HELP--!**

MJ: ...

Panel 4. Now we see what MJ sees: at the top of the shredded car, SPIDER-MAN is slugging it out with ELECTRO.

ELECTRO: **Die**, Spider-Man!

SPIDEY: Oh, come on! All I said was that that mask makes you look like a total **doofus**...

Page Eighteen (7 panels)

Panel 1. Spidey taunts Electro.

SPIDEY: C'mon, **Electro**...I mean, yeah, sure, **all** us super-types like to hide our identities--

SPIDEY: --but aren't you gonna at least **try** to look cool?

Panel 2. Electro fires a blast, but it misses Spidey, heading for the back of the car.

ELECTRO: **Shut up!**

SPIDEY: **Make** me!

Panel 3. The blast fires near MJ's hands, causing her to let go of the train wall.

MJ: **AAA!!**

Panel 4. MJ grabs onto the door handle with one hand.

MJ: **HNNH!**

Panel 5. MJ has tears streaming down her cheeks.

MJ (small): Hold...on...

Panel 6. A shot of MJ's hand as her grip starts to slip.

MJ (small; off): No...

Panel 7. A shot from the back of the train. MJ has lost her grip. Her eyes go wide with fear. Even though she can't make it, she still reaches for the train in desperation. Traffic's stopped from the street below and people gawk. It's late at night, so the traffic would be light.

MJ: **NO!!**

Page Nineteen (5 panels)

Panel 1. A small panel. Spidey's hand grabs MJ's wrist.

NO COPY

Panel 2. A shot from just under MJ, or just behind her. Spidey's grabbed onto her wrist with one hand, one foot on the train floor and one on the door, with his other hand gripping the top of the doorway, bracing him.

SPIDEY: Uh...

SPIDEY: ...falling would be **bad**.

Panel 3. Close in on Spidey. Electro can be seen coming up behind him, grinning.

SPIDEY: Now, don't worry, miss, everything's gonna be just--

Panel 4. MJ, still hanging in the air, points anxiously with her free hand.

MJ: Spider-Man! **Behind** you!

Panel 5. Spidey shoots a web over his shoulder, snaring Electro's head.

ELECTRO: **GMMF!**

SPIDEY: Oh, yeah.

SPIDEY: Almost **forgot** about ol' sparky.

SPIDEY: Heh...I do that sometimes...

Page Twenty (3 panels)

Panel 1. An upside-down shot of Electro's webbed mouth/face/whatever.

ELECTRO: **MMMP!**

Panel 2. Pull way back to reveal that Electro's all webbed up, hanging from a single webline coming down off the elevated track. Police and rescue cars are parked here, and a COP scratches his head, looking up at Electro. Another points and laughs. Spidey has also webbed up the train car so it stays put, but he and MJ are nowhere to be found.

ELECTRO: **MMMM-MMMMP!**

COP (RIGHT FORE): Well, how ya like that...

Panel 3. Meanwhile, Spidey has MJ in his arm as he swings away from the scene. Again, I don't know what the landscape's like here, so hopefully Mac to the rescue... MJ covers her eyes.

MJ: Ohmygosh.

MJ: Ohmygosh.

Page Twenty-One (6 panels)

Panel 1. Spidey and MJ zip across the landscape. (Feel free to move this to page 20 if that works better for you.)

NO COPY

Panel 2. MJ looks down, scared.

MJ: Uh--

MJ: Uh--

Panel 3. Now she looks at Spidey's masked face, which is so close to hers. The fear starts to recede, replaced with silent awe.

NO COPY

Panel 4. Now we're a house or two from MJ's home. Spidey and she land from a webline.

SPIDEY: Here we go! Last stop.

Panel 5. MJ looks at Spidey with bewilderment, her house in the background.

MJ: Whuh--

MJ: Uhh--

MJ: Dih--

Panel 6. Same shot. MJ turns and looks back at her house.

MJ: Hey.

MJ: How'd you know where I **live**?

Page Twenty-Two (5 panels)

Panel 1. A waist-up shot. Spider-Man and MJ face each other in the street, with 4-6 feet between them. MJ looks at Spidey strangely.

SPIDEY: Uh--

SPIDEY: It--

SPIDEY: It's one of my special powers.

Panel 2. Same shot. They both look at one another. MJ looks like she's waiting for him to say something.

NO COPY

Panel 3. Spidey's turned, shooting a webline and lifting off. MJ reaches reflexively, but she's not "really" reaching for him. It's okay if his head's off-panel even for this to show that he's rushed.

SPIDEY: **Igottago.**

MJ: Hey, **no!**

Panel 4. We stand behind MJ, who calls up at Spidey. His webline was attached to the top of the tree and he's used its elasticity like a bungee cord, sending him way off into the night sky.

MJ: **Wait!**

Panel 5. Now a crane shot. MJ stands in the middle of the empty street, watching him go, and feeling the loss.

MJ: Wait...

Page Twenty-Three (6 panels)

Panel 1. It's the next day at the Coffee Bean. Inside, MJ and Liz sit together. Liz is totally engrossed as MJ excitedly tells her best friend what happened, making a "zoom!" hand gesture.

MJ: --and then he just **took off** into the air, like, like--

MJ: **ZOOM!**

Panel 2. Liz is still stunned while MJ munches on a piece of coffee cake.

LIZ: Oh. My **gosh**.

MJ: I know. I know!

MJ: Mmf!

MJ: He **totally** saved my life.

Panel 3. Peter walks by with a small smile and a casual, little wave. MJ looks up, kind of like Pete just snapped her out of a trance.

MJ: I mean, if it wasn't for **Spider-Man**, I--

PETE: Hey, Mary Jane.

MJ: Hmm?

MJ: Oh. Hi.

Panel 4. Pete walks toward us, cropped in the foreground as Liz leans in excitedly.

LIZ: So, look, I know you nearly **died** last night, but you **still** have to **tell me**.

MJ: Tell you what?

CONTINUED...

Page Twenty-Three (cont'd.)

Panel 5. Liz laughs in disbelief.

LIZ: **Harry!**

LIZ: The **date**, you big dork!

Panel 6. MJ shrugs, looking down, poking at her food.

LIZ (off): So, is he your **Prince Charming**, or what?

MJ: Well...

MJ: I mean, it was **such** a great night, but then--

MJ: I dunno.

MJ: I just don't think Harry's the **right guy** for me, you know?

Page Twenty-Four (3 panels)

Panel 1. Liz rolls her eyes. MJ smiles nervously.

LIZ: Great. So now we're back to where we **started**, and you have no one to go to the Homecoming dance with.

MJ: Well, actually, I kinda have an **idea** about that.

MJ: But you're gonna think I'm **crazy**--

Panel 2. MJ braces for impact. Liz can't bear the anticipation.

LIZ: I already **do**, so just **spill** it!

MJ: Okay...

Panel 3. A big panel. MJ smiles.

MJ: ...I want **Spider-Man** to be my Homecoming date.

THE REAL THING

credits